

Congressman Travis Childers Votes for \$15.7 Million to Modernize Schools, Create Jobs in North Mississippi

School Modernization Legislation Provides \$83 Million Statewide

May 14, 2009

Washington, DC - Today, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) joined a majority of his colleagues in voting for important legislation to improve Mississippi's public schools, create jobs, and lower costs for taxpayers. The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (H.R. 2187), which passed in the House by a vote of 275-155, will invest in our schools in order to boost Mississippi's economy now and help prepare children for success in the future.

"Right now, Mississippi's schools are millions of dollars short of the funding needed for modernization and repair," said Congressman Childers. "Today's legislation provides the First Congressional District with the resources necessary to bring our school buildings up to code. Upgrading schools will boost student achievement by fostering a healthy learning environment and will create much-needed local jobs. I hope the Senate takes this up expeditiously and I urge its swift passage."

The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act provides over \$6 billion in federal funds to upgrade school buildings to make them more energy efficient and more reliant on renewable sources of energy. Mississippi's First Congressional District will receive an estimated \$15.7 million in funding, and the state will receive an estimated \$83 million. The bill also generates long-term savings for schools by reducing energy expenses.

"Schools spend more on energy than any other expense except personnel. This bill gives North Mississippi the opportunity to build more efficient schools that will reduce operating costs by up to 30 percent and save taxpayers dollars."

H.R. 2187 provides the following funding estimates for school districts in the Mississippi's First Congressional District:

LEA Name

Estimated grant under H.R. 2187 using FY09 as prior year amount

Aberdeen School District

\$376,000

Alcorn School District

\$332,000

Amory School District

\$185,000

Baldwyn School District

\$147,000

Benton County School District

\$210,000

Booneville School District

\$88,000

Calhoun County School District

\$400,000

Chickasaw County School District

\$81,000

Choctaw County School District

\$412,000

Clay County School District

\$98,000

Coffeeville School District

\$208,000

Columbus Municipal School District

\$1,342,000

Corinth School District

\$403,000

DeSoto County School District

\$1,354,000

Grenada School District

\$639,000

Holly Springs School District

\$377,000

Houston School District

\$207,000

Itawamba County School District

\$312,000

Lafayette County School District

\$168,000

Lee County School District

\$689,000

Louisville Municipal School District

\$481,000

Lowndes County School District

\$720,000

Marshall County School District

\$468,000

Monroe County School District

\$197,000

Nettleton School District

\$126,000

New Albany Public Schools

\$201,000

North Panola School District

\$568,000

North Tippah School District

\$96,000

Okolona Separate School District

\$250,000

Oxford School District

\$261,000

Pontotoc County Schools

\$241,000

Pontotoc City Schools

\$266,000

Prentiss County School District

\$224,000

Senatobia Municipal School District

\$199,000

South Panola School District

\$623,000

South Tippah School District

\$300,000

Tate County School District

\$242,000

Tishomingo County Schools

\$285,000

Tupelo Public School District

\$681,000

Union County School District

\$203,000

Water Valley School District

\$232,000

Webster County School District

\$222,000

West Point School District

\$629,000

According to calculations by the Economic Policy Institute, this legislation's construction funding would support as many as 136,000 new jobs - many in areas that will give workers the valuable skills they need to excel in a clean energy economy.

The bill also authorizes separate funds for public schools that were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita - \$600 million over the next six years. Many students in the region still attend school in temporary classrooms because of the extensive damage to permanent facilities.

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